

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE: W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS: Cash in advance. Money sent by mail will be at the risk of the sender. Non-Resident bills current in New York only.

THE DAILY HERALD, two cents per copy, \$7 per annum. THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, at six cents per copy, or \$3 per annum. The European Edition every Wednesday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The American Edition every Friday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The London Edition every Saturday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Paris Edition every Sunday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The New Orleans Edition every Monday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The San Francisco Edition every Tuesday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Melbourne Edition every Wednesday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Sydney Edition every Thursday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Adelaide Edition every Friday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Perth Edition every Saturday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Melbourne Edition every Sunday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Sydney Edition every Monday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Adelaide Edition every Tuesday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Perth Edition every Wednesday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Melbourne Edition every Thursday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Sydney Edition every Friday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Adelaide Edition every Saturday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum. The Perth Edition every Sunday, at six cents per copy; \$1 per annum.

Volume XXVII.....No. 105

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—LUTIN BROTHERS.

MILLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE ENCHANTMENT.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—DANCING GROUND.

TOODLES—ROBERT MACAIRE.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 34 Broadway.—LOVE AND MORT.

LAURA KENNEDY'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARY.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—DEAD HEART.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—COM.

NATHAN'S THEATRE, No. 107 N. 3rd St.—THE

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Broadway Hall, 47 Broadway.—

MELODION CONCERT HALL, 539 Broadway.—ROSE

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 555 Broadway.—SONGS

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 515 Broadway.—DRAWING

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 444 Broadway.—JALOUS

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Broadway.—

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 553 Broadway.—

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—BURLESQUE

TEMPERANCE HALL, Princeton.—STYLISH BARRACKS

THE SITUATION.

New York, Thursday, April 17, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The correspondence from Yorktown, which we

publish to-day, will give our readers a very ac-

curate and interesting description of the progress of

affairs in front of that city. It will be seen that

the greatest activity prevails in both armies.

Firing from the rebel batteries is an every day

event, and meets with an occasional response from

our artillery, while preparations are being made

by the commanding general for an assault, which

must prove of a terrific character. A skirmish

took place on Saturday, in which a scattering fire

was kept up on both sides. The skirmish was con-

tinued on Sunday morning, but with what effect on

the enemy was not ascertained. Our loss is insigni-

ficant. The Petersburg Express describes it as

an important affair, and says: "We did not hear

the number of Confederates engaged, but it is

stated that three of our regiments sustained

considerable loss in killed and wounded. The

Yankees are thought to have suffered greatly.

Had the enemy been allowed to fortify he might,

with a very small force, have menaced and held

in check a large body of our troops, while he could

have sent off a greater portion of his co-operating

in other fields." The same paper adds: "It is

stated, further, that a general battle is imminent

on the peninsula, and not a few in our city yester-

day were prepared to hear of active fighting at

any moment. It is now known with certainty that

McClellan, at the head of an immense army, is

there, and it is also known that our generals have

made ample preparations to give the enemy a de-

spairing fight the moment he offers battle."

The Merrimack still lies up quietly at Norfolk.

We publish to-day the official report of General

Grant of the battle at Pittsburg Landing, or Shi-

loh, as it may perhaps more properly be called,

and also the report of General Sherman describing

the pursuit of the enemy towards Corinth. The

account of the fight, which we give from the South-

ern papers, in another column, will be found very

interesting.

Despatches received at the War Department

yesterday from Kansas City, bring official intelli-

gence of the battle at Apache Pass, in New

Mexico. Our loss is one hundred and

fifty killed, wounded and missing. The

enemy acknowledge their loss to be from

three hundred to four hundred killed and

wounded. Ninety-three rebels were taken pris-

oners, thirteen of whom are officers. Our forces cap-

tured and burned sixty-four wagons, laden with

provisions and ammunition, and killed two hun-

dred mules. The Texans attacked our battery

four times, the last time coming within forty feet

of our guns, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

The Texans fell back to Santa Fe after the fight.

The Secretary of the Navy received a despatch

yesterday from Cairo announcing that Commodore

Foote had advanced with his flotilla to within

three quarters of a mile of Fort Pillow, General

Pope's command occupying the Arkansas shore.

Ten mortar boats were in position off Fort Pillow,

and had opened fire at six o'clock on Tuesday

evening. Commodore Foote states that he is con-

fident of reducing the fort.

The New Orleans Delta announces that seven or

eight of our vessels—Porter's mortar boats no

doubt—had made an attack upon Forts Jackson

and St. Philip, without mentioning the date, and

that as they retired upon being fired on by the

forts, it was evident that a reconnaissance only

was intended.

By the Canada, at Halifax, we learn that the

New York packet ship Yorktown had been cap-

tured at sea by a Southern privateer. No particu-

lars are given, but as the fact is announced under

the head of the very latest news, we presume the

capture must have been made near the British

coast.

The revolution in the mode of waging war at

sea, produced by the engagement between the

war ships, and the danger of depend-
ing on land fortifications for the defence
of a coast line, were debated in the
British House of Commons during two nights, as
mentioned on Tuesday. Although the whole
matter was treated very cautiously and with
spit by the Cabinet Ministers, it is quite evident
that the Palmerston government is excited, if
not alarmed, at the position in which the coun-
try is placed, its wooden line-of-battle ships being
valuable, and a huge additional expense being
rendered absolutely necessary for the building of
new iron vessels and the alteration and sheathing
of old frigates of oak. It is claimed that Captain
Cowper-Coles, of the British Navy, originated
the plan after which the Monitor has been built.

The great military landmarks, for the defence
of Spithead, which had just been undertaken,
have been suspended at the instance of Parliament.
The French iron-plated gunboat which arrived
in the Seine from Bordeaux about a year ago, has
been lengthened and modified in shape; she is now
completed, and being wholly roofed in by a casing
of iron plates, presents a remarkable appearance
in the water—something like a gigantic egg. She
has two very short funnels, two engines, and is pro-
pelled by two screws.

The Russian government is determined to save
every rouble possible in order to apply the money
for the fitting out of an iron-plated fleet.

The English government had officially announced
the retirement of its military contingent from
Mexico, with the exception of a small force, which
is ordered not to take any part in or give any aid
to an advance into the interior. Spain has avowed
her intention not to ally herself with any "recon-
dite schemes" for the subjugation of the Mexicans;
so that the tripartite alliance may be said to be at
an end, so far as the idea of a permanent invasion
is concerned. France, in the absence of informa-
tion to the contrary, is now acting alone on the
soil of the republic, and the Paris correspondent
of the London News states that the Mexican ques-
tion, as between Napoleon and England, has
become of a "very ticklish" nature.

CONGRESS.

The President sent a special message to both
houses of Congress yesterday, announcing his ap-
proval of the act abolishing slavery in the Dis-
trict of Columbia. The President has appointed
ex-Mayor Berret, of Washington; Hon. Samuel
F. Vinton, of Ohio, and Daniel R. Goodloe, for-
merly of North Carolina, Commissioners to de-
termine the validity and value of the claims pre-
sented under the act of emancipation.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Hale withdrew his
resignation of the chairmanship of the Naval Com-
mittee. Bills providing a Territorial government for
Kanawha (Western Virginia), and for the enforce-
ment of the laws of the United States, were refer-
red. Mr. McDougall continued his remarks re-
specting the arrest of General Stone, and opposed
the adoption of the motion calling on the President
for information on the subject. Instead of the Secre-
tary of War. The Confiscation bill was then taken
up, and Mr. Powell, of Kentucky, spoke against it.
The death of Mr. Cooper, representative of the
Seventh district of Pennsylvania, was announced,
and the customary resolutions of condolence
adopted.

In the House of Representatives, a bill appropri-
ating thirty millions of dollars to make up de-
ficiencies in the appropriations for the pay of the
army was passed by a vote of one hundred and
ninety-nine to two. Messrs. Calvert and May, both
of Maryland, voting in the negative. A joint
resolution, requiring Treasury certificates to bear
date at the time the claims are audited and settled,
was introduced and referred. The bill organizing
the army signal corps was passed. A resolution,
reported by the Judiciary Committee, declaring
that the government should not interfere with the
transmission of intelligence by telegraph, when it
will not afford aid to the enemy, was adopted.
The death of Mr. Cooper, of Pennsylvania, was
announced, resolutions of condolence were
adopted, and the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The Canada, from Liverpool on the 5th and
Queenstown on the 6th of April, reached Halifax
yesterday. Her news is two days later than that
received by the Norwegian.

The Liverpool cotton market tended upwards on
the 5th instant, but the quotations remained un-
changed. Flour was steady. Provisions remained
steady, with a quiet market. Consols closed in
London on the 5th instant at 93 1/4 for money.

Our advices from the continent of Europe are

not of much importance.

The French papers very generally comment on
the recent naval conflict at Hampton Roads, be-
tween the Monitor and Merrimack, and on the com-
plete revolution which has thus been caused in naval
warfare. They make particular reference to the
excitement caused in England by this change, and
to the assertions of the English press that a new
navy must be built. The Opinion Nationale
hopes that these new inventions and improve-
ments will make naval warfare so terrible as in the
end to prevent it altogether. The Courrier du
Havre thinks that if England, France and the
United States were to expend large sums of money,
and each were to be possessed of an invulnerable
steel-clad navy, the position of affairs would
scarcely be altered, as neither Power would be
able to make any impression upon the navy of the
other. It also argues that the cost is too enor-
mous ever to allow iron vessels to come into
general use as wooden ships. All the papers,
however, coincide in the opinion that iron vessels
will henceforth displace all others for harbor and
coast defences.

The Canada reports, under the head of the very
latest news, that the New York packet ship York-
town, trading between New York and London, had
been captured by a rebel Southern privateer. Our
telegraphic report by the Canada does not contain
any particulars as to the situation of the vessels at
the time of the seizure, the name of the privateer,
or the destination or cargo of the Yorktown; but
as the Canada left Queenstown on the 5th instant,
and the fact is stated as a portion of the latest
Liverpool news of the previous day, it is to be
presumed that the occurrence took place in the
near neighborhood of the English or Irish coast,
and that both vessels were in some one of the
ports of Great Britain when the Canada took her
departure for Boston. The ship Yorktown was
built in New York, by William H. Webb, in the
year 1847. She is eleven hundred and fifty tons
burthen, and has three decks. She is built of oak,
draws twenty feet of water, and was metalled in
June, 1860. She is owned by Messrs. Ginnell,
Minturn & Co., and her measurement shows that
she is one hundred and seventy feet in length,
thirty-eight feet in breadth, and twenty-two feet
in depth.

The Yorktown was last surveyed in this port in
January, 1860, and was a favorite vessel, both for
freight and passengers. We believe she was com-
manded by Captain Crosby.

In the State Senate yesterday, the bill to pre-
vent frauds upon laborers and others seeking em-
ployment was passed, as well as others of less im-

portance. A long debate took place on a motion to
instruct the Internal Affairs Committee to report
the Metropolitan Health bill immediately. With-
out coming to any decision on the motion the
Senate went into executive session, and after-
wards took up and debated the bill providing for
a sufficient enlargement of the canals to permit
the passage of gunboats. Favorable reports were
made on the bills for the better protection of
buildings in this city against fire, and to establish
bulkhead pier lines for New York and Brooklyn.
The bill for the reorganization of the State
militia and the enrolment of a National Guard
was debated for some time, but the Senate
adjourned without making any disposition
of it. In the Assembly, a special committee
of five on the apportionment of the Congressional
districts of the State was announced by the
Speaker. A large number of bills received their
third reading, many of which were passed; but
the majority of them were of local or private im-
portance. Among them were, however, those to
provide means for the support of government, to
provide means for the payment of the canal in-
debtedness, the General Tax bill, to regulate the
sale of poisons, to inflict punishment for the use
of false brands, stamps and trade marks, and some
others of particular interest to the people of this
city. The Spring Street Railroad bill was recom-
mended for amendment.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of
Education was held yesterday afternoon, Wm. E.
Curtis, Esq., in the chair. A resolution was
adopted awarding the contract of the mason work
of primary school in the Nineteenth ward to Mason
& Carey, carpenter work to William Coulton, and
painting to Charles Loeber. The discussion in re-
lation to military education was postponed. No
further business of importance was transacted.

The Grand Jury of Paterson, N. J., have indi-
cated Mr. Lawrence Holms for reporting, and the
Daily Guardian for publishing, reports of a seduc-
tion and abortion case, on the grounds of their ob-
scenity. Mr. Holms, who reported the proceed-
ings, was attending court as a juror, but has since
become associate editor of the Guardian. In this
State proceedings in courts of justice are per-
mitted to be published; but it entirely depends upon
the good taste of the reporter and the supervising
editor to judge what portions should be omitted or
delicately worded so as not to offend the sense of
the community.

The market for beef cattle was substantially the
same yesterday as last week. Some of the brokers
and butchers reported a reduction in prices; but
we found the range about the same. The average
prices might have been a trifle lower. Prices var-
ied from 7 cents to 8 1/2 cents a 9 cents, with a
large proportion of the sales at 8 cents a 8 1/2 cents
for prime corn fed steers. Milch cows have been
in rather more inquiry; but prices remain about
the same. Veals were steady for prime, but dull
and lower for common. Sheep and lambs sold at
prices ranging from \$5 to \$6, according to quality.
Swine sold at 4 cents a 4 1/2 cents for still fed, 4 1/2
cents a 4 1/2 cents for heavy corn fed, and 3 1/2 cents
a 4 cents for light fed. The total receipts were
3,517 hives, 123 cows, 991 veals, 6,170 sheep and
lambs, and 927 swine.

The stock market was firm yesterday, General Grant's
official report having silenced the fears of the doubters
with regard to the battle of Pittsburg Landing,
and rumors with regard to the object of Mr. Mer-
cier's visit to Washington tending to encourage hopes of a
cessation of hostilities. Governments improved. Mr.
McClure's report, sold 101 1/2 a 101 3/4. The trade tables
for the month of March will be found in the money ar-
ticle, in another column.

The cotton market was again active yesterday,
and firmer, with sales of 1,800 bales—a good part to spin-
ners—closing off on the basis of 23 1/2 cts. for middling up-
lands. Some holders demanded 22 cts., and refused to sell
for less. Mr. Samuel Smith's Liverpool circular of the 1st
of April contains the following statements regarding
movements in India cotton: "The export of cotton from
Bombay to Europe in January and February showed a de-
ficiency of more than 60,000 bales as compared with last
year, and the arrivals from the interior continue on a
very moderate scale. To give the imports into Liver-
pool to the 25th of March, as follows:—

	American.	East India.	Total all kinds.
1862, bales.....	7,000	180,000	187,000
1861, ".....	891,000	1,000,000	1,891,000
Decrease.....	884,000	820,000	1,704,000

And the stock on the 25th of March, as follows:—

	American.	East India.	All kinds.
1862, bales.....	144,000	400,000	544,000
1861, ".....	708,000	820,000	1,528,000
Decrease.....	564,000	420,000	984,000

The circular puts down the consumption at 28,000 bales
per week, which is thought to be the lowest point it
can reach. This will increase, especially if trade
revives at all in Manchester. Applying the
weekly reduction to the stock on hand, and it
will be easy to estimate the steady exhaustion of sup-
ply going on in Great Britain. The cotton export on its
way to England on the 25th of March, the circular—
is regarded as very good authority on the trade—states
as follows:—

	American.	East India.	Total.
1862, bales.....	31,000	210,000	241,000
1861, ".....	218,000	245,000	463,000
Decrease.....	187,000	35,000	222,000

The four markets were heavy and lower, and fell off from
5c. to 10c. and on some kinds especially of combed
and medium grades, 15c. per bbl. Wheat was easier and
irregular, while sales were moderate. Western mixed
was in fair request, at 56c. a 56 1/2 cts. in store, and 55c.
a 56c. delivered. Pork was lower, but active at the con-
cession, with sales of new mess at \$12 62 1/2 a \$12 75, and
of prime do. at \$10 a \$10 37 1/2. Sugars were steady, with
sales of 500 hids. Coffee was quiet. Freight was
firmer, with a fair amount of engagements at rates given
in another column.

The New Policy of Napoleon in Europe and America.

We published yesterday the important des-
patch that M. Mercler, the French Minister at
Washington, had proceeded to Richmond by
way of Fortress Monroe and Norfolk. Much
speculation is at this time as to the object of his visit
to the rebel capital. Some think it has some-
thing to do with tobacco, in which the French
government has an interest. But nothing of
this kind would take a French Minister from the
capital of the United States to the capital
of the seceded States at such a moment as this.

It would be beneath the dignity of the repre-
sentative of the French empire. It is far more
likely that the visit is purely diplomatic, and
that it has grown out of some of the recent
events of the war. A day or two before the
visit the Merrimack communicated with the
French steamer, probably with a reply to some
communication of M. Mercler. Let us unravel
the mystery.

The late naval battles in Hampton Roads have
thoroughly alarmed the British Parliament for
the safety of their coast. Their wooden walls,
and even their stone walls, avail nothing against
iron-plated steamships. The English coast is
vulnerable at any moment to any Power which
possesses these terrible vessels. Now it is
known to the British oligarchy that Napoleon
possesses these ships in abundance, and that he
has been silently and secretly constructing them
for a long time. Hence their alarm.

Hitherto nothing prevented him from carrying
out the policy of his uncle, and chastising
England, but the barrier presented by her
navy, and in some degree her coast fortifica-
tions. The invention of iron-plated vessels,
practically tested in Hampton Roads, has ren-
dered these barriers of no account; and well
may the aristocracy of England turn pale.
Their sheet anchor is gone. They are now at
the mercy of their more warlike Gallic neigh-
bor. The problem of a successful invasion is

now solved. Had the elder Napoleon possessed
such an instrumentality, England would have
been, at this day, either a dependency of
France, or, if still independent, a fourth rate
petty Power. Had England not been an island,
and had it formed part of the continent of
Europe, contiguous to France, no one can
doubt that she would either be annexed to the
dominant Power of the Continent, or, at best,
would hold about the same relationship to
France as does Belgium or Italy. The insular
position of Britannia, and her command
of the seas, protected her against the
world in arms. But the battle of Hampton
Roads strips her of her strength like Samson
shorn of his hair. Henceforth France is des-
tined to rule all Europe. Louis Napoleon will
now carry out the unfinished role of his uncle,
and his iron-plated vessels, now ready for ac-
tion, will speedily enter the Thames, bombard
London, and tame the pride of the lineal de-
scendants of those who chained the mighty
eagle of France upon the lonely rock of St.
Helena, where he gnawed out his own vitals
before his invasion of Russia he had prepared
an immense expedition to England; but the
development of alarming movements on the Con-
tinent, started by the diplomacy of England to
divert the storm from herself, suddenly checked
his purpose. The invasion of Russia was a
failure; but Napoleon III. has avenged the de-
feat. He has since taken vengeance on the
treachery of Austria. It only remains to
avenge Waterloo and punish England. He be-
lieves this is his destiny, and it is the pinnacle
of his ambition.

In order to be successful in so great an en-
terprise, Napoleon deems it necessary to be on
a friendly footing with the greatest naval
Power of the world—the United States. Hence
the visit of Mercler to Richmond. It has been
stated recently that Napoleon had suddenly
changed his policy in reference to the Ameri-
can war; that he had expounded the side of the
North, and was about to recall his recognition
of the belligerent rights of the South. Now,
the object of the visit of Mercler is to tell Jeff.
Davis and his Cabinet that they must submit at
once; that if they do not France will take part
with the North, and settle the affair very soon.
But if the Southern leaders will lay down their
arms the Emperor of the French will interpose
to save their necks. This reasoning will prob-
ably be successful. Napoleon will then say to
our government:—"See what I have done for
you—I have restored the Union! I will, more-
over, abandon Mexico, and all designs upon
this continent. You have my permission to ap-
propriate Canada. I want your secret friend-
ship for my enterprises in Europe. At least, I
decide that you will pledge me that you will
maintain a strict neutrality." That, we think,
he may fairly calculate upon, and then, let
England look out. Napoleon is now master of
the situation, and he will be sure to make the
best of it.

The Naval Panic in England.

In this morning's paper will be found a full
report of the interesting debate which took
place in the House of Commons on the 30th
ult. in relation to iron-clad vessels-of-war. It
will be seen from it that our transatlantic
cousins are in great alarm at the facts de-
veloped in the recent engagement between the
Merrimack and Monitor. That event operated
upon them like a new revelation. It took out
of them the starch of their arrogance and self-
conceit, and has left them terribly nervous and
anxious about the future.

The motives of this anxiety are not exag-
gerated. Never had a nation greater cause to feel
troubled. In a single day it has seen not only
its most cherished illusions and prejudices de-
stroyed, but the work of centuries annihilated.
Since the fight in Hampton Roads its naval
supremacy has passed out of the realm of
fables into that of traditions. Alas! that so
much that is pleasant and convivial should
vanish with it. No more at Guildhall banquets
or county dinners will the toast of "Our
Wooden Walls" wake the echoes with stentor-
ian and self-congratulatory cheers.

It will be seen from what passed in Parlia-
ment in the coming age of iron English
zealotry still hopes to maintain its
superiority at sea. We will not stop to discuss
how far this expectation is well-founded. To
time we may safely leave the solution of the
question. We would observe, however, that it
is but poor evidence of confidence
in the future when the ground on which the
English Parliament is urged to the reconstruc-
tion of its navy by the speakers on this occa-
sion is apprehended danger from this country.
Danger of what? We have enough to occupy
us at home without seeking to carry aggression
into the territories of other governments.
Neither are we so unattractive as to instigate
the example set of seeking a pretext to cut
throats of our own kindred. John Bull need
not be afraid of us. We prefer feeling like a
fighting man.

This fear of us, however, is merely put on.
It is not visions of Yankee Merrimacks and Mon-
itors that disturb the slumbers of our English
cousins. They know well that it is not
our interest to pick a quarrel with them.
But they are not so sure of the continuance
of the same pacific disposition on the part of
their imperial neighbor. The Gallic cock has
begun to crow rather loud since the news of
the sea fight in Hampton Roads, and the nerves
of the braggers who bullied us when our hands
were tied have become painfully sensitive. They
have suddenly awakened to the consciousness of
the fact that whilst they have been theorizing on
iron-plated war vessels and batteries France has
been silently multiplying them. She has at
present about three times the force of both
that England, with all her boasted resources in
iron and engineering skill, can command.
Were war to break out between the two
countries to-morrow, there would be nothing
to prevent the French steaming up the Thames
and shelling and capturing London.

This is one of the first points of the great
American revolution. It has exposed to the
maritime governments of Europe the weakness
and unreliability of their present navies. It
will soon lay bare, in the same unpleasant
manner, the feeble points of their political
systems. The ordeal through which de-
mocracy is passing here will necessarily have
the effect of purifying and fortifying it abroad.
Once our domestic